

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAZATL 00349 261944Z  
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 H-02 /022 W  
-----085240 261952Z /75

P R 261645Z JUL 77  
FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1317  
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0349

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CDES, MX (MOORE, HERBERT W.)  
SUBJ: POSSIBLE DEATH OF HERBERT W. MOORE

REF: STATE 172927 AND MAZATLAN 0242

1. ON MAY 12, STATE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ADVISED CONSULATE THAT TWO OF THREE BODIES WHICH HAD BEEN BURIED BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES FEBRUARY 1977 HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AMERICANS AS A RESULT OF CONFESSION BY TWO MEXICAN PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR MURDERS OF BACHER, GHARST, BROWN AND DAY. (SEE MAZATLAN'S 0098 AND 0462 OF NOVEMBER 26, 1976).

DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WHO HAD COOPERATED IN SEARCH FOR MOORE, SAID THAT BELT BUCKLE WITH INITIALS "HWM" HAD BEEN REMOVED BY CORONER FROM BODY WHICH MATCHED DESCRIPTION CONSULATE HAD GIVEN OF MOORE.

2. CONSULATE AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN POSSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF MOORE AND DEATH CERTIFICATE IN HIS NAME. EXHUMATION ATTEMPTED ON JULY 1, 1977 FAILED BECAUSE BODIES WERE BURIED IN UNMARKED GRAVE AND UNDERTAKER COULD NOT REMEMBER CORRECT LOCATION.

3. ON JULY 19, CONSUL CALLED ON MAZATLAN CORONER WHO STATED THAT HE UNABLE TO ISSUE AMENDED DEATH REPORT WITHOUT  
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PAGE 02 MAZATL 00349 261944Z

CONSULTATION WITH SAN IGNACIO CORONER. DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO ARRANGE MEETING BETWEEN SAN IGNACIO CORONER AND MAZATLAN CORONER SO THAT SAN IGNACIO CORONER CAN SUPPLY DETAILED EYE-WITNESS REPORT TO LOCAL CORONER WHO WILL THEN ISSUE AMENDED DEATH REPORT.

4. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, ONE OF THE OTHER BODIES

HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS CHRISTOPHER TREMLETT FOR WHOM DEATH CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN ISSUED. (SEE MAZATLAN 0350). DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAS ADVISED CONSUL THAT AS RESULT OF FURTHER CONFESSIONS, TWO OR THREE MORE AMCITS BODIES MAY SURFACE.

5. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN AS TO WHY BODIES BURIED WITHOUT NOTIFYING CONSULATE. WHEN CONSUL INQUIRED, DA SAID BODIES WHEN FOUND WERE DECOMPOSED, AND CORONER WAS UNABLE TO DETERMINE NATIONALITY OF REMAINS. HOWEVER, CONSUL BELIEVES THAT REAL REASON MAY HAVE BEEN COVER-UP TO FORESTALL RESULTING ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN THE UNITED STATES. AMERICAN PRISONERS IN CULIACAN WHERE MURDERERS ARE INCARCERATED, TOLD CONSUL THAT MURDERERS OPENLY BRAGGED THAT THEY KILLED SO MANY AMCITS THAT THEY LOST COUNT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY MORE OR LESS CONFIRMED THIS STATEMENT AND SAID MURDERERS TOLD HIM THAT THEY EXECUTED VICTIMS BECAUSE OF THEIR HATE FOR AMERICANS.

6. COPY OF POLICE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT BEING POUCHED JULY 25.

7. CONSULATE HAS ADVISED MOORE'S SISTER AND DAUGHTER OF LATEST DEVELOPMENT.

8. CONSUL WILL FOLLOW THROUGH AND ADVISE DEPARTMENT.  
MATTHEWS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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